



MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES September 15, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Members

Christopher Sauer, Chair
Mylene Batista Bezerra
Kevin Boon
Phil Fung
Marie Legrow
Chuan Li
James Lin
Philip Ling
Salim Manji
Adam Poon
Tom Rado
Rodney Yee
Councillor Joe Li
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Regrets

Erika Lontoc
Elvis Nurse
Carrie Sally
Erica Tsang

Staff

Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) was called to order at 7:10 PM with Christopher Sauer presiding as Chair. He welcomed the new members and introductions were made. On behalf of all Committee members, he thanked Immediate Past Chair Tom Rado for his many contributions during his more than six years service on the Committee.

2. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 19, 2011

It was

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Chris Sauer

That the minutes of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) held on May 19, 2011 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. MEAC GOALS for 2011

Chris Sauer reported that the list of MEAC goals for 2011 is posted at its website, www.markhameac.org, to which all new members will be granted access. Since new members make up more than half of the Committee, their input on Committee priorities is welcome. It was noted that new goals, such as support for the "Trees for Tomorrow" and Earth Day initiatives, resulted from the summer meeting with Mayor Frank Scarpitti. It was also noted that Romila Verma, would be willing to assist the Committee in achieving its initiatives.

B. COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE

Philip Ling reported that the committee is discussing the creation of a multi use pathway from Toogood Pond to Bob Hunter Memorial Park; it also is providing advice on matters such as location and connection to other pathways, accessibility, safety issues, maintenance and waste management, impact on the environment, and conformance to Markham's Official Plan. The last committee meeting was held in May 2011. However, two walks were held during the summer to understand the issues and challenges in creating a walkway, e.g. private land, and rough terrain; feedback from these walks will be shared at the next formal meeting on September 26.

Philip Ling will also share with the Markham Centre Committee the results of the survey conducted with the MEAC walk participants once he and Mylene Bezerra Batista have finalized it.

For the benefit of new members, it was noted that MEAC has representation on a number of Town of Markham committees, i.e. the Markham Centre Committee, the Environmental Issues Committee, and the Markham Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

C. CORPORATE OUTREACH

This item was discussed under New Business: Markham Board of Trade conference - September 22, 2011.

D. 2nd ANNUAL DEPUTY MAYOR'S WALK

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath thanked the members of the Committee for their efforts and advised that the 2nd annual Deputy Mayor's Walk was very successful. He hopes to schedule another walk, perhaps along Highway 407, for next year.

MEAC had committed to create an online survey to get feedback from everyone who took part in the walk. Mylene Bezerra Batista has created a presentation showing the results of the survey; this will be presented to the Committee at the October meeting.

E. LETTER FROM JOAN JENKYN RE: EAST DON RIVER

It was noted that the Committee had reviewed the TRCA report that Ms. Jenkyn refers to and finds that the concerns she noted are consistent with the findings in the TRCA report. Chris Sauer will post Ms. Jenkyn's letter and the TRCA report on the MEAC website. It was suggested that the TRCA be invited to a future MEAC meeting to discuss the report card, or be invited to participate in Earth Day events. It was also suggested that MEAC consider including some of the TRCA recommendations among its goals for 2012.

It was

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Phil Fung

THAT the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Town of Markham Council that a review of the TRCA report be conducted to determine what is, or could potentially be, in place to respond to the concerns expressed by Ms. Jenkyn in her letter, and that Council respond directly to Ms. Jenkyn about this matter.

Carried

F. GREENPRINT IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Chris Sauer will consult with Victoria McGrath, Director, Sustainability Office to determine when she might be available to attend a future meeting to discuss this matter.

G. WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that the Waste Diversion Sub-Committee will meet over the next few months to consider a number of initiatives to increase Markham's waste diversion rate from 72% to 80%. Mylene Batista Bezerra attended a meeting as a representative of MEAC. She reported on the discussion of likely challenges to be faced and possible options to overcome them. She will post pertinent material on the MEAC website for all MEAC members to review; any questions or comments should be forwarded to Mylene Batista Bezerra.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

It was

Moved by James Lin
Seconded by Phil Fung

THAT Chris Sauer be appointed by unanimous acclamation as Chair of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Carried

Chris Sauer advised Committee members of the process that has been used successfully in the past to elect a Committee Vice Chair and noted that the successful Vice Chair would then take over the Chair position in the following year. He encouraged any interested Committee member to send him an email by September 30, 2011 advising they would like to be considered for the position and to include a one paragraph explanation of why they would be a good choice for Vice Chair. The expressions of interest will then be circulated to all members of the Committee in advance of the October 20, 2011 meeting, and a vote will be held during the meeting.

On a related note, Tom Rado suggested that, by the November 17th meeting, all new Committee members submit a bio of one paragraph indicating their background and accomplishments. The complete collection bios from Committee members will be submitted to Town of Markham Council so they become aware of the resource that MEAC members can be for them.

B. INTRODUCTORY LETTER - ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF BARRIE

Chris Sauer recommended that MEAC support the Barrie committee in its efforts by responding to the letter and offering to share meeting minutes and experiences. He also suggested inviting representatives to attend the York Region EAC meeting on September 19, 2011 to learn about the many initiatives being undertaken by other environmental advisory committees.

C. REGIONAL EAC FORUM - SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Tom Rado advised that the various Environmental Advisory Committees in York Region hold a joint meeting twice each year to share concerns and ideas for environmental projects. The September 19, 2011 meeting is very special because it marks the adoption of Markham's GreenPrint plan and the 10th anniversary of the York Region Greening Strategy. Four mayors will attend, including Town of Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti. MEAC is hosting the meeting in the Canada Room of the Markham Civic Centre; Committee members were asked to arrive by 6 PM to help with set up duties.

D. MARKHAM BOARD OF TRADE CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

The Committee will share a booth with Markham's Sustainability Office at a business to business trade show sponsored by the Markham Board of Trade; it will be held on September 22, 2011 from 4 -8 pm at the York Downs Golf & Country Club. Because there will be 38 booths and the show could attract many attendees, this could be an excellent opportunity to showcase MEAC initiatives and promote environmental awareness among local businesses in Markham.

Chris Sauer asked that Committee members email him if they could be available to help set up or take down the booth, or to host the booth during the show.

**E. 2011 PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES
SYMPOSIUM - NOVEMBER 19, 2011**

Chris Sauer advised he will post the information on the MEAC website and that it would be beneficial for some MEAC members to attend. Registration costs \$25 per person; Chris Sauer will confirm the Committee's budget for such activities with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath.

F. SUSTAINABILITY TERMINOLOGY

Phil Fung agreed to defer his presentation to the next meeting.

G. EARTH HOUR/DAY/WEEK POSSIBLE PLANS FOR 2012

Chris Sauer advised that Mayor Frank Scarpitti would appreciate MEAC's assistance in Town of Markham Earth Day initiatives. Committee members can assist Markham staff in creating ideas, hosting the event, and liaising with the community. Discussion of this topic will continue at the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Environmental Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Thursday October 20, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Ontario Room.